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ABSTRACT

This book is a guide to categorizing, measuring, testing, and assessing aspects of language, and is intended for language teachers, speech therapists and other language-related practitioners, and researchers, in conjunction with other resources on research methods and statistics. The first part is a discussion of basic terminology and the varied reasons for quantifying language. Part 2 focuses on methods of gathering data for quantification, particularly the selection of appropriate instruments and techniques. Four general data-gathering approaches are discussed: fully naturalistic; quasi-naturalistic interaction; opinion; and manipulation. Suggestions are made for optimizing naturalness in the data-gathering phase. The importance of referencing is also addressed here. A range of issues in scoring, counting, and scale types are examined in Part 3. In Part 4, questions of quality, reliability, and validity are explored. Contains 13 references. (MSE)

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